

REMARKS

Replacement sheets containing FIGS. 1-14 are submitted herewith in place of the drawing sheets containing informal FIGS. 1-14 originally filed . FIGS. 1-11 and FIGS. 13-14 have been redrawn by a professional draftsman but are otherwise an exact duplicate of the informal figures originally submitted. FIG. 12 has been amended to include new reference numbers to replace the original reference numbers which were duplicative of reference numbers utilized to show another embodiment of the invention. In this same connection the amendments to the specification have been made to incorporate the new reference numbers in place of the duplicate reference numbers. In view of these amendments it is deemed that the Examiner's objection to the drawings has been traversed and the specification and drawings are in agreement.

The allowance of claims 15 to 17 is noted with appreciation.

Claims 1, 2 and 14 were rejected as being unpatentable over Rogers in view of East. These claims have been canceled from the application. Claims 3-8 and 10 to 13 were objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claim 1 but the Examiner indicated that they will be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Newly submitted claim 18 contains the limitations of now canceled claims 1 and 2 as well as the limitations of objected to claim 4 which has also been canceled. As amended claim 18 now includes the feature of the pivoting rail members which permits the patient transport Board of the present invention to be folded into a compact unit for storage or the like. This feature is neither disclosed nor suggested by Rogers or East alone or in combination. In addition neither

Rogers nor East disclose a skid plate which permits the patient transport board to be moved over a surface even without wheels or track members when the patient transport board is pivoted into an essentially vertical position as may be required when moving the patient through a narrow hallway or other narrow passageway. The combination of Rogers and East fails to disclose or suggest the novel features of applicant's patient transport board.

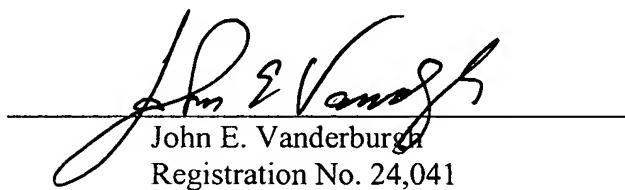
Claims 3, and 5-8 have been amended to depend from newly submitted claim 18 and contain all the limitations of base claim 18. It is deemed, therefore, that these claims have met the requirements set out by the Examiner and therefore are allowable.

Claim 9 has also been amended to depend from claim 18 and thus contains the limitations of the base claim. In addition this claim has been amended to call out that each of the track assemblies carries an endless track which is a feature that is neither disclosed nor suggested by the combination of references cited by the Examiner. Claim 10 which depends from claim 9 calls for front and rear bogey wheels which support the endless track as well as bogey wheel axles and a tie rod between the axles. Claim 11 and 12 depend from claim 10 and a call for a suspension bar which is journaled in the support board to permit pivoting or rocking of the track assemblies about an axis normal to the longitudinal axis of the support board, claim 11 providing for an independent pivoting of the track assemblies and claim 12 providing for simultaneous pivoting of the track assemblies. These claims are also deemed to be allowable as they contain all limitations on the base claim and any intervening claim.

In view of the foregoing amendments to the specification and claims it is deemed that the Examiner's objections have been traversed and that the claims are now in condition for allowance. Therefore it is respectfully requested that the Examiner issue a notice of allowance in this case.

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Respectfully Submitted,
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